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## Utah to receive grant for gardens project

Utah is one of 13 states that will receive a \$100,000 grant from the national Governor's Association Center for Best Practices. The state's winning proposal is a community gardens project that will increase opportunities for Utahns in low-income neighborhoods of Salt Lake and Weber Counties to participate in gardening.

The vision of the yearlong gardens project is that it will help improve residents' health by getting them moving and increasing access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables.

"The funding from this grant will be put directly into the hands of community groups to develop their own gardens. It will empower neighborhoods to improve their health by creating opportunities to improve eating habits and get active at the same time," said Lynda Blades, physical activity coordinator for the Utah Department of Health, in a release.

Wasatch Community Gardens, a nonprofit group, will receive a portion of the funding to be used for staff support, education and training for gardeners, as well as a "tool" library. A total of \$30,000 will be awarded directly to community groups to enhance or develop their community gardens, and the rest of the funding will be used for a media campaign promoting the health benefits of gardening.

Community groups interested in applying for funding to be part of the project may contact Blades at 801-538-6229 or e-mail [lblades@utah.gov](mailto:lblades@utah.gov). There will be an opportunity to apply for funding this fall, with a review panel to select communities to receive grants to implement their projects during the 2007 gardening season.

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